



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:)

Inventor: GUSTAFSON, Vincent K. et al.)

Serial No.: 10/686,347)

Filed: October 14, 2003)

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
PREPARING MICROFLUIDIC
DEVICES FOR OPERATION)

Group Art Unit: 1744

Examiner: [not yet assigned]

Attorney Docket: 129-US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is provided before the receipt of a first Office Action pursuant to MPEP 714.01(e). It is not believed that any fee is due with this amendment; however, if Applicants are incorrect in this regard then please treat this as authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 502454 for any necessary fee.

Amendment

Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

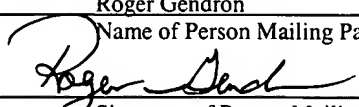
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
(37 C.F.R. §1.8)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient first class postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

February 6, 2004
Date of Deposit

Roger Gendron

Name of Person Mailing Paper


Signature of Person Mailing Paper